

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 INR-07 SS-15 H-02
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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO AMCONSUL MUNICH
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1520
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 HELSINKI 1269

MUNICH FOR POL/GILMORE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, FI
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN MONITORING TV PROGRAM

REF: MUNICH 1574

1. FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATED EXCERPT AS REQUESTED FROM
FINNISH TELEVISION'S 30-MINUTE PROGRAM ON CSCE, BROADCAST
JUNE 8, 1977. THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE INTERVIEW CARRIED
FINNISH SUB-TITLES.

2. BEGIN TEXT:
COMMENTATOR: MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, HE (PRESIDENT CARTER)
PROMISED MORE MONEY TO THE RADIO STATIONS OPERATING IN
CENTRAL EUROPE WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT. THESE STATIONS DIRECT THEIR BROADCASTS TO THE
SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. THE UNITED STATES JUSTIFIES THE
OPERATION OF THESE STATIONS WITH THE FINAL ACT OF
THE CSCE WHICH GUARANTEES FREE DISSEMINATION OF
INFORMATION. THE OPERATION OF THE STATIONS, SET UP
DURING THE COLD WAR, HAS ALWAYS AROUSED BITTER
REACTIONS IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, AND THE SAME
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IS HAPPENING NOW. THE BROADCASTS BY THESE STATIONS
HAVE BEEN CONDEMNED AS VIOLATIONS OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT.
SEPPO TOIVONEN: (FBC BONN CORRESPONDENT): THIS FOREST
OF ANTENNAS BELONGS TO TWO RADIO STATIONS, RADIO FREE
EUROPE AND RADIO LIBERTY, WHICH BROADCAST PROGRAMS TO
THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN EASTERN EUROPE WITH THE HELP
OF 46 RADIO TRANSMITTERS. THE RADIO STATIONS WERE

FOUNDED IN THE EARLY 1950'S TO BE THE HEAVY ARTILLERY OF THE WEST'S PROPAGANDA WAR. THEIR OPERATION WAS FINANCED THROUGH THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND RADIO FREE EUROPE IS SAID TO HAVE HAD A DIRECT INFLUENCE IN THE EVENTS IN HUNGARY IN 1956. SINCE 1975, THE RADIO STATIONS HAVE OPERATED UNDER THE SAME ROOF IN A GARDEN SUBURB OF MUNICH. WHEN THE STATIONS WERE COMBINED, THEY WERE ALSO BROUGHT UNDER TIGHTER CONTROL BY U.S. POLITICAL LEADERS AND MADE TOOLS OF THE FOREIGN POLICY. THE BULK OF THE FINANCING COMES NOW FROM THE CONGRESS. UNDER THE RULES, THE BROADCASTS MUST NOT BE IN CONFLICT WITH U.S. FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES. THE PROGRAMMING COVERS MORE THAN 140 HOURS A DAY, MOST OF IT NEWS AND COMMENTARY. THE CENTRAL CONTROL ROOM STILL SHOWS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RADIO LIBERTY WHICH BROADCASTS PROGRAMS TO THE SOVIET UNION IN 16 LANGUAGES, AND RADIO FREE EUROPE WHICH PROGRAMS ARE BROADCAST TO POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, ROMANIA AND BULGARIA. WHILE THE FLOW OF INFORMATION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST HAS BEEN FACILITATED IN OTHER RESPECTS, THE OPERATION OF THESE RADIO STATIONS HAS REMAINED A BITTER TOPIC OF CONTENTION, PRIMARILY BECAUSE THEY TRY TO EXPOSE CONDITIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE AND ALSO TO DISSEMINATE THE VIEWS OF THE OPPOSITION IN EASTERN EUROPE. AFTER CSCE, THESE STATIONS HAVE ADOPTED AS THEIR NEW GUIDELINES THE CSCE FINAL ACT WHICH SAYS THAT THE PARTICIPATING STATES WILL TRY TO FACILITATE A WIDER AND FREER DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION OF ALL KINDS. ACCORDING TO THE ANNUAL REPORT, SPECIAL EMPHASIS IS LAID ON THE TREATMENT OF THE THIRD BASKET

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ISSUES CASE-BY-CASE. THERE IS NO RELIABLE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE AUDIENCE THESE RADIO STATIONS HAVE. ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN INFORMATION, RADIO FREE EUROPE HAS 13 MILLION LISTENERS IN A NORMAL DAY, AND RADIO LIBERTY HAS 314 MILLION LISTENERS IN THE SOVIET UNION. THE SOVIET UNION HAS LODGED A PROTEST AND, IN GENERAL, MAINTAINS THAT THE RADIO STATIONS POISON THE INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE. THE OPERATION OF THE RADIO STATIONS ALSO INCLUDE A COMPREHENSIVE 24-HOUR MONITORING OF EAST EUROPEAN RADIO STATIONS, INCLUDING MILITARY STATIONS. THIS INFORMATION IS NOT USED IN RADIO BROADCASTS ONLY. THE RADIO STATION SAYS IT IS THE BIGGEST RESEARCH CENTER ON THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN THE WEST. (IN WHAT FOLLOWS, QUESTIONS ARE ASKED BY SEPPO TOIVANEN AND ANSWERED BY RFE/RL OFFICIAL).

Q: HAVE THE YEARS OF DETANTE, AS ONE COULD SAY, BROUGHT ANY CHANGE TO THE PROGRAMS OF RADIO FREE EUROPE OR RADIO LIBERTY, OR ANY CHANGE OF PRINCIPLE?

A: NO, I DON'T THINK IT HAS CHANGED THE PRINCIPLE. LET'S

DEFINE THE PRINCIPLE OF RFE AND RADIO LIBERTY. IT IS TO
ACT AS A SURROGATE FREE PRESS IN THE COUNTRIES TO WHICH
WE BROADCAST IN THE ABSENCE OF FREE RADIO OR FREE PRESS
OR FREE TELEVISION. WE TRY TO BE THE INDEPENDENT, THE
FREE VOICE FROM ABROAD AND, SINCE DETENTE, IT HAS NOT
CHANGED. WE JUST TRY TO EXPLAIN TO THE PEOPLE WE ARE
BROADCASTING TO WHAT DETENTE MEANS, THE FACT THAT WE
ARE IN FAVOR OF DETENTE AND THAT WE FEEL THAT DETENTE
PROPERLY CARRIED OUT WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE PEOPLES
IN THE EAST AND THE WEST TO UNDERSTAND ONE AND OTHER.

Q: HOW DO YOU SEE... DO YOU SEE THAT THE RADIO FREE
EUROPE AND RADIO LIBERTY ARE COMPATIBLE WITH DETENTE?

A: ABSOLUTELY SO. BECAUSE THEY HELP, AS I JUST SAID,
TO MAKE A BRIDGE FROM EAST TO WEST, TO MAKE A BRIDGE BETWEEN
THE PEOPLES OF WEST WHO REPORT WHAT GOES ON AND ALSO
TELLS THEM WHAT THEY DON'T GET FROM THEIR OWN NEWS MEDIA.
THEREFORE THE GENERAL AMOUNT OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
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THE PEOPLES WE'RE BROADCASTING TO BECOMES MUCH LARGER,
MUCH BIGGER AND THEREFORE IS PART OF DETENTE.

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TO AMCONSUL MUNICH
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1521
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 HELSINKI 1269

MUNICH FOR POL/GILMORE

COMMENTATOR: THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ARE NOT AS

DELIGHTED AT THE BRIDGE-BUILDING OF THE RADIO STATIONS.
THEY ARE REGARDED AS REMNANTS OF THE COLD WAR PROPAGANDA
ERA, AND THEY ARE ACCUSED OF CONSCIOUS SOWING OF HATRED
AGAINST THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. NOTHING POSITIVE IS
SEEN IN THE OPERATION OF THE RADIOS AS FAR AS THE CSCE
DECISION ARE CONCERNED. END TEXT.

3. PROGRAM WAS BALANCED PRESENTATION OF ALL CSCE ISSUES
BY FBC'S FOREIGN NEWS EDITOR SEPPO HARKONEN PRESENTLY
COVERING BELGRADE CONFERENCE. TREATMENT OF BASKET III
TOPICS INCLUDED RFE/RL COMMENTS PROVIDED HERE AS WELL AS
SOVIET COMMENTARY THESE MATTERS BY PRAVDA POLITICAL
COMMENTATOR. POST WILL FORWARD CASSETTE OF PROGRAM
SOUNDTRACK TO MUNICH GILMORE.

HOUSTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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